EXPLORING GEODIVERSITY

Key Stage 3, 4 Geography, Geology and Science Teacher Course

This project is funded by the NGO Challenge Fund and delivered through partnership work between the Causeway Coasts and Glens Heritage Trust, Geological Survey NI and WELB - Magilligan Field Centre a Curriculum Advisory and Support Service.

Exploring Geodiversity has objectives set in alignment with the Geodiversity Audit & Action Plan for the Causeway Coast and Glens Region - April 2013

Course Aims and Objectives

- To promote an awareness of the geodiversity of Northern Ireland with particular emphasis on the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust area and the need for a geoconservation approach to its use and management.
- To promote an interest in geoscience among teachers.
- To inspire and empower teachers to develop fieldwork opportunities for earth science students through the development of fieldwork skills and an awareness of fieldwork issues including Health & Safety.
- To highlight the availability of fieldwork study sites in the area whilst emphasising the need for a sustainable approach to their use.
- To gain practical experience in Outdoor Learning curriculum opportunities.

Course format – 3 days 09.15hrs – 15.45hrs.

The course will be based at Magilligan Field Centre and will involve both Centre-based sessions and a range of field study visits within the CCGHT area incorporating hands-on activities. Outdoor protective clothing and footwear will be available from MFC if required. Lunch and refreshments will be offered each day. Specialist dietary and medical needs must be communicated in advance. Upon request teachers will be picked up from Bellarena (20th, 26th February 2014) or Coleraine (21st February 2014) train stations and minibus transport is available for fieldwork site visits. Please check Translink time-table www.translink.co.uk. Car-sharing or utilising public transport is actively encouraged.

Topics and issues to cover

The course will aim to provide a basic introduction to the study of the diverse geology of Northern Ireland with particular emphasis on the CCGHT region and equip participants with a basic grasp of rock identification and appreciation of their significance in the landscape. The course will aim to develop an understanding and perspective on the significance of rocks in our landscape from Binevenagh, Causeway Coast, Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as
well as the World Heritage Site at the Giant’s Causeway that will draw links to include biodiversity, built heritage, cultural history and economy.

Course content and delivery will depend on participants’ background knowledge and experience as well as their stated requirements for the development of geoscience teaching. Teachers may seek to develop opportunities for delivery of the topics in the following curricular and syllabus areas:

- Geography and Geology: Key stage 3 and GCSE
- Science: Key stage 3 and GCSE

Over the course of the day participants will carry out guided visits to a variety of suitable fieldwork venues with relevant and appropriate teaching aids, site information, background (maps) and risk assessments.

Time will also be spent at MFC discussing curricular opportunities for geoscience fieldwork, outdoor learning and teaching issues, developing resources, using available materials and sharing good practice.

**20th February 2014 - MFC based**

- MFC - Introduction to Geodiversity – inspiring holistic learning and teaching

**21st February 2014 – Field excursion Causeway Coast**

- Portrush to Ballintoy – inspiring outdoor teaching and learning

**26th February 2014 - MFC based**

- MFC – Exploring Geodiversity - making the connections to bring it back to the classroom to raise standards.

10 spaces available for current (in post) KS3/4 Geography, Geology or Science teachers from across Northern Ireland.

Minibus pick up from Bellarena (20th, 26th February) and Coleraine (21st February 2014) train stations if pre-arranged with MFC.

Teaching staff cover costs, meals and travel expenses included.

Application forms are available to download from either [http://cass.welbni.org/mfc](http://cass.welbni.org/mfc) or [www.ccght.org](http://www.ccght.org)

Closing date & time for applications **31st January 2014 at 15.00hrs**

Course queries to Liz Wallace  email liz_wallace@welbni.org or 028 777 50234

**Application forms returned to Andrew Bratton Andrew@ccght.org**

Exploring Geodiversity applicants will be selected by CCGHT.